

Hoosick Falls -- Abbreviated Chronology

Nov. 2014

- Village receives sampling results (from Oct. 2014) showing 180-540 ppt in drinking water supply, decides to shut down the well with levels over 400 ppt (well #7).
- Village contacts NYSDOH, NYSDEC, and Rensselaer County Health Dept.

Source: Village website timeline, [[HYPERLINK "http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Water/timeline.html"](http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Water/timeline.html)].

Dec. 2014:

- Village sends out [[HYPERLINK "http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Media/PDF/WaterLetter-122014.pdf"](http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Media/PDF/WaterLetter-122014.pdf)] to users of public water supply re PFOA detection in wells and initial plans for addressing.
- Village notifies Saint Gobain of sampling results.
- **Saint Gobain sends letter to EPA TSCA Info Center 12/30/14**, notifying EPA of PFOA sampling data from Village and stating that it has been told that the well with more than 400 ppt has been taken out of service. [[HYPERLINK "http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Water/Documents/Saint-GobainLetterToEPA_Re_TSCA.pdf"](http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Water/Documents/Saint-GobainLetterToEPA_Re_TSCA.pdf)]
- **Village resident Leslie Kurland contacts EPA Region 2** (Joan Matthews) on 12/19/14, relates that PFOA has been detected in Village wells, and that the well over 500 ppt was shut down. Kurland provides Joan with the lab results the Village had obtained, which again indicate that as a result of the sample result showing Well 7 had 540 ppt, Well 3 (which had PFOA at 170-230 ppt) has replaced Well 7 as the prime water supply.
 - Joan directs staff (Arlene Anderson) to look into the situation, and to contact State and Country health departments for info.
 - Joan sends e-mail to RA asking if she is aware of HF drinking water contamination. RA responds no, but says PFOA contamination is “serious” and asks Joan to let her know what she finds out from her staff.
 - Anderson contacts NYSDOH, who responds with status info -- County health dept. has lead in investigation, NYSDOH and DEC also getting involved, the well over 400 ppt has reportedly been taken off-line. Anderson provides this info to her management in CWD. Anderson also gets back to Kurland.

Sources: Village website timeline; 12/30/14 Saint Gobain letter to EPA TSCA Information Center; Matthews, Anderson and Enck e-mails 12/19-12/23/15; emails from Roger Sokol (NYSDOH) to Anderson; Matthews’ notes of phone call with Kurland.

Jan. – Feb. 2015:

- A Water Advisory Committee is established that includes representatives from RCDOH, NYSDOH, several engineering firms, the Town and Village, Saint-Gobain, and operators of the Village municipal water supply system. Staff from State Senator Marchione's, Congressman Gibson's and Senator Schumer's offices participate. EPA not invited to participate.
- Village conducts further rounds of sampling.
- Village officials receive [HYPERLINK "http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Media/PDF/RiskCharacterizationAndHealthEffectsLanguageForPFOA.pdf" \t "_blank"] stating the presence of PFOA "at the levels detected in the supply wells and in finished water does not constitute an immediate health hazard... The detection of PFOA indicates a need to identify the sources of contamination and to take measures to reduce it so that long-term exposure can be reduced and future exposures prevented."

Source: Village website timeline

Feb, 2015

- Additional water samples collected.

Source: Village website timeline

Mar. 2015

- Region 2 (Anderson) receives call from Hoosick Falls consultant (Lukas, MRB) seeking info re how to treat PFOA (Arlene doesn't recall that Lukas mentioned Hoosick Falls in particular). She refers him to Joyce Donohue (HQ OW).
- Lukas write to Joyce Donohue, saying that Village is in dire need of financial support and technical assistance for the PFOA problem. They then speak, including about treatment technologies for removing PFOA from a water supply. She may also have referred him to another person in EPA's Cincinnati office.
- Region PAD (Berry Shore) receives e-mail from David Connors (Sen. Gillibrand staff) inquiring if EPA can help with Hoosick Falls problem, and attaching a 2-page status report, dated 3/10/15, from the Mayor. The status report does not say whether Well #7 is on-line or off-line. Based on staff input from DECA (and Web research?), Berry responds with info about UCMR 3, PFOA, and limitations on EPA's ability to take action in this situation, suggests that Village contact NYSEFC about a possible DWSRF loan, and recommends that Village continue to work closely w/ DOH.
- On 3/17/15, Saint-Gobain wrote again to the EPA TSCA CBI Center, providing data from samples collected from the public water supply in Feb. 2015.

Sources: E-mails between Donohue and Lukas, 3/19-3/20/15, and between Berry Shore and David Connors (Sen. Gillibrand staff), 3/12 and 3/19/15; 1/13/16 e-mail from Lukas to David Borge (HF Mayor) relating 3/15/15 oral conversation with Donohue; Village website timeline; 3/17/15 SGPP ltr.

April 2015

- Village sends 2d [[HYPERLINK "http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Media/PDF/WaterLetter-04012015.pdf"](http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Media/PDF/WaterLetter-04012015.pdf) \t "_blank"] to residents re status.

Source: Village web site timeline

May 2015

- Saint-Gobain wrote again to the TSCA CBI Center in HQ on 5/8/15 to say that the laboratory that had reported results twice as high as the other laboratory (the two labs separately analyzed split samples of water from the Hoosick Falls public water supply) has informed SGPP that it believes there was a problem with their results.

Source: 5/8/15 SGPP letter to EPA TSCA Information Center.

June 2015

- More samples collected from Village water supply. Results show PFOA exceeds 600 ppt.

Sources: Village web site timeline; data supplied to EPA by NYSDOH in October 2015; Doug Pabst oral conversation 2/3/16, based on info provided by Village. Copy of e-mail from Dave Lukas (consultant) to David Borge (Mayor of HF)

Aug. 2015

- Village sends 3rd [[HYPERLINK "http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Media/PDF/WaterLetter-82015.pdf"](http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Media/PDF/WaterLetter-82015.pdf) \t "_blank"] to residents.
- NYSDOH provides the results of its [[HYPERLINK "http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Water/Documents/DOH-PrivateWells-Redacted-072415.PDF"](http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Water/Documents/DOH-PrivateWells-Redacted-072415.PDF)] to the Village.

Source: Village web site timeline.

Sept. 2015

- On 9/16-9/17/15, David Engel, a lawyer for a group of Hoosick Falls residents, sent two emails to the RA concerning the PFOA contamination in the public water supply wells. He attached a copy of the 12/30/14 letter that Saint-Gobain sent to EPA's TSCA Info Center, along with the data that was appended to that letter. Engel referred to the fact that the Village had ceased use of Well 7, where the highest PFOA levels had been found, and he asserted, "My experts indicate that the switch from Well 7 to Well 3 would likely provide only temporary relief because the wells are all in the same area and the contamination will be drawn into whatever well is utilized the most."

Source: 9/16-9/17/15 emails from Engel to Enck

Oct. 2015

- Rensselaer County Exec. Kathy Jimino contacts EPA (Enck) asking if EPA has a funding stream to which the Village could apply to pay for a GAC treatment system for Village water supply.
- Saint-Gobain provides results of its own sampling program to Village and Town and informally offers to fund the GAC treatment on the Village water treatment plant.
- Latter part of October: Region 2 discusses the Village's PFOA problem with NYSDOH and gathers info from DOH, including the results of the June 2015 water supply sampling.

Sources: 10/15/15 email from Jimino to Enck; Village website timeline; JE oral recollection, 2/3/16; Pabst and Azzam emails, late Oct. 2015.

Nov. 2015

- 11/17/15: Saint Gobain provides another notice to EPA TSCA Information Center, with soil and groundwater testing results from their McCaffrey St. facility (reports 18 ppb in groundwater under facility)
- EPA has numerous communications with DOH and makes first direct contact with Mayor of Hoosick Falls.
- **11/25/15 Region 2 (Enck) sends letter to Village, advising that residents should not drink the water from the public water supply.** Letter cites levels over 660 ppt in drinking water supply, based on June 2015 sampling of finished water.
- **11/29/15 Free bottled water program begins at Tops Store**
- 11/30/15 Village responds to Enck 11/25/15 letter, reciting steps taken to provide alternate water and to install GAC (paid for by Saint Gobain)

Sources: Numerous internal emails and emails with DOH; Simon notes of conversation with Mayor; correspondence with Village; Village web site timeline.

Dec. 2015

- Frequent written and oral EPA communications with various interested parties.
- 12/17/15: EPA issues Public Statement on Hoosick Falls Water Contamination.

Jan. 2016 – EPA holds public meeting in Hoosick Falls